

CDF - A leader in flood response



Though CDF is most often highlighted in its role as a wildland fire fighting agency, the Department's forces answer the call more than 300,000 times for other emergencies each year. During the 1990s CDF was called upon several times to respond to serious flooding in the State.

In 1997, rains devastated California by swelling rivers and lakes, collapsing levees, and forcing entire communities to evacuate. At the request of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), CDF committed over 2500 personnel to help sandbag public and private property, remove flood and storm debris, and help save lives. Over 150 hand crews were deployed, which was more than 75 percent of CDF's total crew capability for the State. In addition, CDF sent three Incident Management Teams, four mobile kitchen units, and four mobile communication centers to hard hit areas of California.

As a direct result of CDF's efforts lives and property were saved, prompting landowners and public officials alike to express extreme gratitude to the Department. Almost on a nightly basis, CDF crews were seen assisting flood victims on local news. This coverage represented just a few of the hundreds of acts performed by CDF employees across the State, sometimes at the risk of loss of life.

In 1998, CDF, along with many other emergency response personnel statewide, once again battled water and mud as Mother Nature dumped heavy rains throughout the State. CDF played a major role in the operations of a mobilization center in Northern California. The multi-jurisdictional center relied on the Department to provide everything from food to showers, fuel to mechanics, equipment to sleeping bags, and mobile communications to finance administration.

CDF has long been recognized for its ability for rapid emergency deployment, effective large incident logistical support, and incident management leadership. Crews once again distinguished themselves during the flooding of 1997 and 1998.



Sandbagging, removing debris and providing mobile communications where there are none, are just a few of the roles CDF plays during disasters.

